



The Arlington Advocate

CELEBRATING OUR 125 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS ARLINGTON COVERAGE 54 PAGES 3 SECTIONS

COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
COMPANY

School, neighbors clash over residence

BY BRIAN BOYD
STAFF WRITER

The proposal to move a group home for troubled teen-age girls into Arlington Heights met stiff opposition Tuesday night from several neighbors at a heated meeting arranged by the organization caring for the girls.

The organization's director said its officials will consider the neighbors' concerns before moving ahead with the plan.

The Germaine Lawrence School on Claremont Avenue, which has to relocate one of its two group homes from a town-owned house in the town center, considers 1288 Massachusetts Avenue its first choice for the new location.

At Tuesday's night meeting arranged by the school, supporters defended the proposal against neighbors' contentions that it threatens their safety and property values. Opponents argued the proposed site differs from the school's main campus and other group homes because it is a crowded residential area.

Executive Director David Hirshberg said afterwards, he will meet with members of the board of directors and staff to discuss the neighbors' reaction.

"We will glean things from what we heard that will influence our decision," Hirshberg said.

The school treats girls who have been victims of sexual or physical abuse. Its Claremont Avenue campus has 75 girls.

The school also maintains two group homes, one next to the campus, for teen-age girls who have advanced through the program but cannot return to their families because they were abused by relatives, Hirshberg told a gathering of 26 people.

The other home, located in a town-owned building next to the Robbins Library, will be converted into office space by the Department of Human Services.

Hirshberg said the neighbors' concerns about the closeness between houses and the noise level are valid. Opponents complained about the houses being built close together, and the particular house under consideration being too small to accommodate eight girls.

Amy Fein, who lives on Massachusetts Avenue a few houses down from the site, said anyone under 18 is going to be loud and need more space than the pro-

SEE HOME, PAGE 5

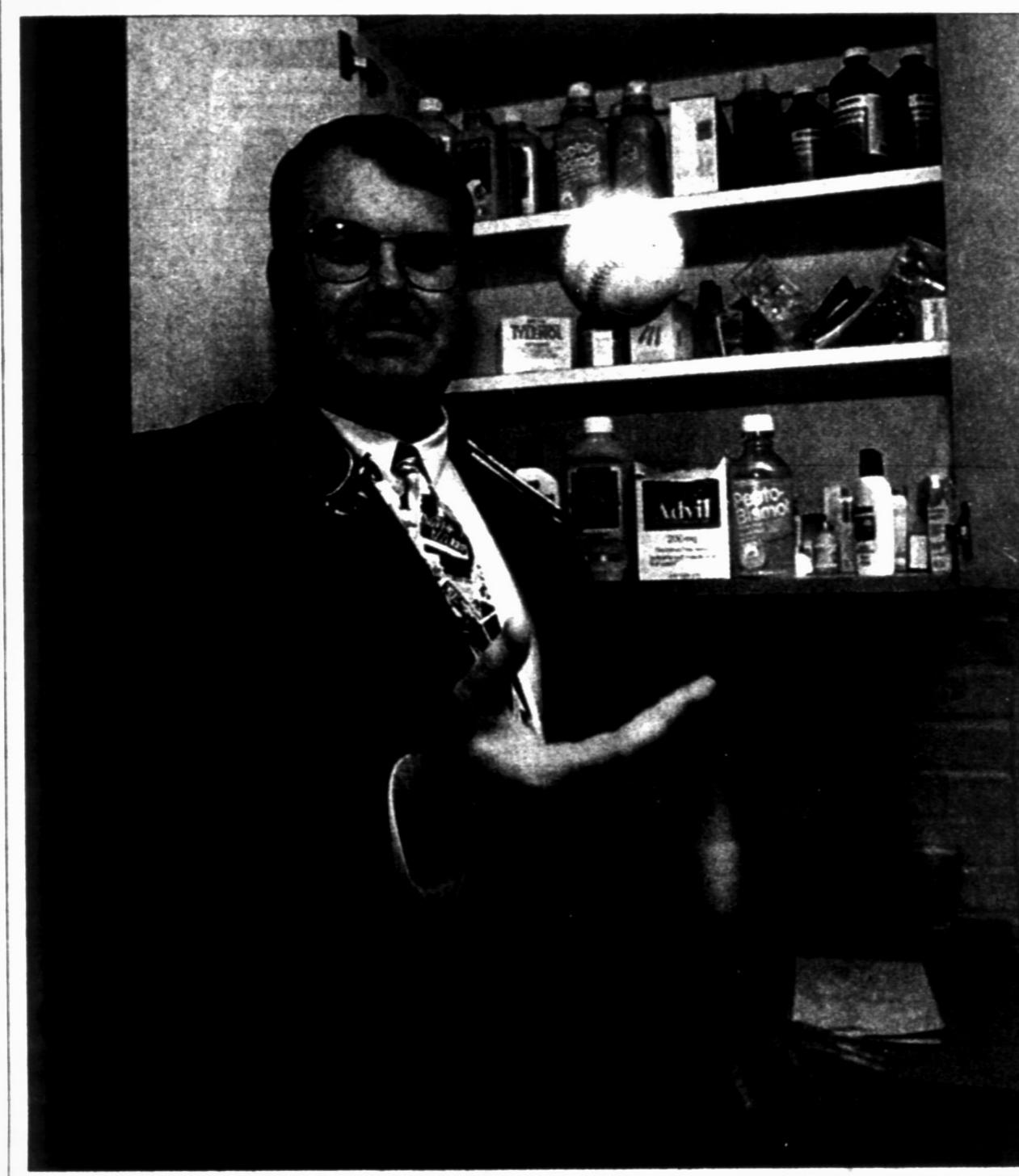
INSIDE Field conditions

Directors of athletic groups and some town officials are concerned about the conditions of the town's ball fields. See page 3 for the story.

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WORKING

A HELP WANTED SECTION WORKS EMPLOYERS



STAFF PHOTO BY SUE SICKLER
Arlington resident Dr. Michael T. Foley serves as a Fenway Park doctor, treating fans and the occasional player, often in this first aid room at the ballpark.

Fans' physician

Foley cares for spectators at Red Sox games

BY BRIAN BOYD
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Michael Foley was inspired to go into medicine by the doctors who made house calls when he was growing up in Arlington. But his love of sports brought him a larger responsibility: Fenway Park.

"I have the biggest practice in Boston; 35,000 fans a night waiting to be seen," Foley said.

Since 1978, Foley has treated Red Sox fans at home games for everything from heat prostration to heart attacks, as well as injuries inflicted by stray balls. He also helps the team's players and visiting players for medical problems that are not treated by the team's orthopedist.

Foley, an Arlington resident, has a private practice in the town for internal medicine. He also supervises internal medicine at Symmes Hospital and Medical Center and consults St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton and Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

In addition to his many responsibilities, Foley is in charge of first aid at the nation's oldest baseball stadium. He said Red Sox fans are so dedicated, they will come to a game no matter how they are feeling. He recalled treating fans who showed with 110 degree fever or the lingering effects of a seizure.

Foley and his assistants have started CPR on fans in their seats. They have had to use electrical shocks to jump-start fans' hearts. They have also performed the Heimlich maneuver on choking fans.

"The Fenway frank is the perfect size for the trachea," Foley said, referring to the windpipe.

Fenway Park has two physicians, three Emergency Medical

SEE FENWAY, PAGE 5

NESWC's director faces tough task

BY ED HANNAN AND NICK PENNIMAN
STAFF WRITERS

There's a Greco-Roman myth about a king named Sisyphus who was banished to Hades by the gods and sentenced to endlessly roll a boulder up a hill knowing it would roll back down again.

Steven Rothstein, the executive director of the North East Solid Waste Committee (NESWC), must be feeling quite sisyphian these days as he attempts to convince the cities and towns that make up NESWC to sign new deals with Wheelabrator Environmental Systems, Inc.

Wheelabrator — which owns the incinerator to which NESWC towns send their trash — and NESWC's board have just wrapped up two and one half years of negotiations, out of which two new contracts were produced.

One contract amends the current deal NESWC towns have with Wheelabrator, which expires in 2005; the other amends and extends — to 2015 — the existing contract.

In modern America — where the consumption and disposal of goods dominates many aspects of

life — these contracts are not inconsequential; hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake.

In a recent interview with The Advocate, Rothstein described the challenge he faces and some of the obstacles facing him.

Financial questions

Rothstein said the new agreements lower projected trash disposal fees; reduce economic risks; change the relationship between Wheelabrator and NESWC; and revamp specific terms of the federally mandated addition of chemical scrubbers to the incinerator's stacks.

According to Rothstein, the 2005 deal would save NESWC communities \$16.5 million and the 2015 agreement would save \$44.4 million.

"We believe offering both contracts to communities is in the communities' best interests," Rothstein said. "We're not advocating one of these or the other. We think there are advantages to both and our job was to give communities choices."

Others disagree.

Hal Schreiber, a member of the Westford Board of

SEE NESWC, PAGE 7

Elevator repair work begins at Brentwood Manor

BY ROBIN ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The woes of elderly and handicapped residents of a Pleasant Street apartment may soon be over as repair work proceeded Wednesday on two elevators shut down by the state for safety violations.

Residents of the five-story Brentwood Manor have been forced to use the stairs since August 6, when the second of two elevators in the building was not repaired within the 20-day time limit since failing the inspection.

Repairs started Tuesday on the elevators and will continue until both elevators are up and running safely, said Jack Jones, the town's coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

He said he anticipates the elevators will be in use by the end of the week.

Jones said the U.S. Attorney General's office was "ready to take action" against landlord David Wilfert if the repairs were not started by Tuesday.

The U.S. Attorney's office public affairs spokeswoman Amy Rindskopf said the office does not comment on cases unless charges have been filed.

"To my knowledge, no charges have been filed yet," Rindskopf said.

Wilfert did not return repeated calls from The Advocate.

Wilfert owns 95 out of 120 units in the complex, where many elderly and handicapped live, said Jones.

"There are quite a few disabled

SEE ELEVATORS, PAGE 6

Bridge construction may begin this month

BY ROBIN ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

Construction on the Park Avenue bridge, which has been delayed for more than a month, should begin in two to three weeks, town officials said.

The later construction date has some area business owners worried because the bridge will be closed and traffic rerouted during the fall instead of the summer, when business is generally slower.

According to Selectman Jack Hurd, the project is behind schedule due to delays from the electric and the phone companies. Utility poles and wires near the bridge must be moved before construction can start.

"The cause for delays up to this point are primarily Boston Edison," he said.

Hurd said once the contractor for the Massachusetts Highway Department, Roads Corporation

residents — at least two in wheelchairs — and over half of the residents are elderly," Jones said.

The complex was without elevators for a week in what was an unfortunate hardship for the elderly, said Jones.

"For the past week, some of them have been carrying groceries up the stairs," he said.

The fire department and the Housing and Disability program offered to assist tenants who needed help negotiating the stairs, but neither department received many calls, Jones said.

Jones said he met with Wilfert and Director of Fire Services Perry Cayton and Deputy Fire Chief Richard Maimone on Monday when Wilfert said repairs would be made on at least one elevator.

"We were informed yesterday that an elevator repair company will begin repairs today," he said Tuesday.

According to a February report from the state elevator inspection division, the elevators were inspected and 10 items found to need repair. Jones said the initial inspection was spurred by a resident complaint.

"At that point both elevators were in need of repairs. The elevator inspectors division didn't want to shut down both elevators, so they shut down one," he said.

The repairs included repacking pistons, repairing leaks in an oil line and pump units in a machine room, replacing broken guide rollers on top of the elevator car and adjusting the door operation.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARC HOLLAND
Steven Rothstein discusses NESWC contract extensions during a recent interview.

INSIDE ARLINGTON

MEETINGS

Thursday, August 7
The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., planning department conference room, Town Hall Annex.

Tuesday, August 12
Permanent Town Building Committee, 7:30 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed for elderly women

Two isolated low-income elderly women in Arlington would very much love to have someone visit and take them out locally just once a week; one lonesome Spanish-speaking lady would like a visitor; a frail, homebound elderly woman and a man need someone to do grocery shopping each week. Volunteers receive 25¢ per mile reimbursement plus great appreciation! Call Liz Nania, Minuteman Home Care at (617) 272-7177.

Park Ave. facility seeks volunteers

Park Avenue Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is seeking volunteers to enhance our activities program. They need volunteers to assist with transporting residents to

Annex.

Arlington Historical Commission, 7:30 p.m., Whittemore Robbins House, 670R Mass Ave.

Wednesday, August 13

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Department of Public Works conference room, Town Hall Annex.

VOLUNTEERS

activities and to assist with activities.

Also needed are musicians who would like to share their talents with residents on a routine basis. Call Carole Fagan, at 648-9530.

New friends sought for homebound elders

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services seeks residents interested in being a friend by visiting a homebound elder. Friends visit two hours a week and help promote socialization, activity and a feeling of self-worth.

Also needed are friendly animals with equally friendly owners. The Pet Share Program arranges regular visits to local nursing homes by pets who love to be loved. One or more, one-hour visits per month.

Call Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services at 628-2604, Ext. 3114.

TOWN ONLINE



Arlington Town Online is Community News paper Company's World Wide Web site devoted to Arlington. You can read Advocate articles, search our archives for past issues, and post messages on our bulletin boards. Find us at <http://www.townonline.com/arlington>

er/flashback and see why we were screaming for summer 4 months ago.

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Need a weather update? Town Online is there for you with hourly updates and a five day forecast for your area at www.townonline.com.

The USS Constitution Has Sailed. Get all the details from the July 20-21 sailing of Old Ironsides from Charlestown to Marblehead and back. Visit our special USS Constitution section at www.townonline.com/constitution and catch up with photos, stories and more.

On Monday, Aug. 11 from 7-8 pm, TownOnline.com/Working features its Careers Live Chat Room Mr. Freddy Gonzales, State-of-the-Art Program Manager, University College/Continuing Education, Northeastern University.

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STEPS OF KNOWLEDGE



STAFF PHOTO BY SUE SICKLER

Jian Li walks up the stairs to the second floor of the Robbins Library one recent afternoon.

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Event honors spirit of community policing

BY ROBIN ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Arlington hosted the kick-off celebration of National Night Out with the third annual "Hands Across The Alewife" event at Bicentennial Park Tuesday morning. The event is held during the day to enable all communities to come together and share ceremonies before hosting their own evening celebrations, officials said.

"National Night Out" is a celebration to support local anti-crime and drug prevention programs and acknowledge the partnership between citizens and police, according to Lisa Deller, Cambridge-based coordinator of the event.

Deller said that more than 20 cities participate in the event in the local area and more than 29 million people from more than 9,000 communities participate nationwide.

"It just keeps growing," she said. "People are starting to realize the benefit of working together."

George Laite, president of the East Arlington Good Neighbors Committee, introduced the ceremony by stating that although the Alewife Brook geographically separates the communities, it has also become a symbol of cooperation between the communities.

Laite said the event was meant to underline the importance of the partnership between the police, the citizens and the elected officials in each community and to let citizens know there is a proactive effort being made by officials to keep their neighborhoods safe.

"We are trying to encourage a more cooperative regional approach, because crime knows no boundaries," he said.

During the ceremony, Arlington Selectman Jack Hurd welcomed the communities of Cambridge, Belmont, Somerville, Medford and Watertown.

"Alewife links all the communities here today together, as we work making our communities safer," he said.

Director of Police Services Eugene Del Gaizo told the 40 or so spectators gathered at the park that crime rates in Arlington have dropped dramatically in recent years, and he said he feels it is a result of the coordinated effort of the communities.

"Property crime has decreased by 8 percent, and violent crimes have decreased by 15 percent, and it's all the result of the work from the departments," he said.

After the ceremony, Laite said much of the decrease in crime is due to good police work, but also the increased involvement of residents.

"The patrolmen and women obviously do the job well, and our involvement has helped to communicate to citizens they can also help the police," he said.

Dignitaries who participated in the event include Senator Warren Tolman, D-Watertown, Middlesex County Sheriff James DiPaola and State Representative Alice Wolf.

Festivities continued throughout the day in Cambridge, including a "Hands Across The River" event between Boston and Cambridge police at the Charles River.

July 31
At 8:55 p.m., police arrested and charged a Somerville juvenile with delinquency and receiving stolen property over \$250.

When questioned by police about the bicycle the juvenile was riding, the juvenile attempted to run away. The officer retrieved the bicycle and the juvenile. The bike, valued at \$399, was reported stolen by a Massachusetts Avenue resident 30 minutes before the arrest.

Aug. 1
At 10:55 p.m., police arrested and charged Keith Kelly, 19, of 247 Summer St., with minor transporting an alcoholic beverage. Patrol officers observed a black Chevy Camaro driving up the wrong side of the road at a high rate of speed. Following a traffic stop, a 12 pack of beer was observed on the back seat. The arrest was made at 224 Mass Ave.

At 5:45 p.m., police issued a citation for failure to stay in marked lanes to Michael G. Levesque of Methuen, after responding to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Pleasant and Swan streets.

Police said Levesque struck a bicyclist, Arthur J. Wheitzmen, 64, of Bellis Court, Cambridge.

Levesque was driving a blue Volkswagen Jetta, and while traffic was stopped for the signal lights at Pleasant Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Levesque crossed the double yellow line and began passing stopped traffic on his right. Upon reaching the intersection at Swan Street, where Wheitzmen was crossing, according to the police report, Levesque's car struck Wheitzmen, knocking him to the ground.

Wheitzmen was injured with slight abrasions on his right elbow and right knee. Rescue assisted him at the scene.

The mountain bike's front wheel was damaged in the accident. There was no damage to the motor vehicle.

At 8 a.m., a Hamilton Road

resident reported that a dark green, Old Town canoe, valued at \$500, was stolen. The canoe was docked and locked to a pole, and the lock had been broken.

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POLICE LOG

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Aug. 2

At 10:10 a.m., police arrested and charged John R. Carvalho, 49, of 84 Margaret St., with operating after revocation of license, following a traffic stop on Trowbridge.

At 11:10 a.m., police arrested and charged Patrick H. Tyrance, 29, of 179 Brattle St., with domestic violence related assault and battery. The arrest was made at his home.

At 10 p.m., police arrested and charged a Salisbury juvenile with assault and battery on a police officer.

According to the report, an officer approached three female runaways from the Germaine Lawrence School at Massachusetts Avenue and Mill Street. Two ran away from the officer while the third became combative and

kicked, punched and swore at the officer. The juvenile was subdued with chemical spray.

Aug. 3

At approximately 3:20 a.m., police on random patrol observed a 1984 Volvo at the intersection of Mystic and Glen avenues, with smoke coming from underneath its hood.

The operator of the vehicle, Justin Hill Monahan, 21, of 40 Arlington St., Winchester, said he swerved to avoid hitting a raccoon and lost control of the vehicle. Monahan drove onto the sidewalk, striking a signpost, a fire hydrant and a tree. The accident caused major damage to the front end of the vehicle.

The fire department responded to extinguish the engine fire and rescue responded and transported Monahan to Symmes Hospital for injuries to his lip and nose. Monahan said he was wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

FIRE LOG

to Lahey Hitchcock Clinic.

July 29

At 7:22 a.m., rescuers responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a moving car and a parked car on Mystic Valley Parkway.

The female victim of the moving car, which hit the parked car and moved it 20 feet, complained of rib, leg and arm pain. The victim was transported to Symmes Hospital and Medical Center.

Aug. 1

At 11:27 p.m., rescuers re-

sponded to an investigation at 58 Mystic St., where they found a barbecue gas grill in operation on a second floor deck. The heat of the grill was melting plastic in the area and the owner was ordered to shut it off.

Aug. 2

At 1:46 a.m., rescuers responded to 6 Fairmont St. for a reported porch fire. The fire was extinguished. Damage was confined to the porch. Fire officials said the possible cause of fire was a discarded cigarette butt.

Robin Robinson

Robinson joins Advocate staff

The Arlington Advocate has added another full time reporter to its staff. Robin Robinson, an Arlington resident, leaves her reporter position at the Bedford Minuteman to join the staff at the Advocate this week.

Arlington Advocate readers may recognize her byline because Robinson free-lanced for The Advocate and other local newspapers for more than a year before working as a full-time town reporter in Bedford.

Robinson said she is eager to start covering the news that will be important to the town of Arlington.

"There are many diverse issues of growth and development in Arlington and I am looking forward to the challenge," she said.

Robinson will primarily be responsible for issues concerning town government and public safety, which includes the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Department of Public Works and Zoning Board of Appeals. While a reporter in Bedford she dealt with similar town boards and issues.

Robinson has a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Maine at Orono and a master's degree in writing and publishing from Emerson College in Boston.

Advocate Editor Tom Rose said having Robinson on board will enable The Advocate to cover even more of what's happening in the town.

"With two reporters we will be able to provide our readers double the local news coverage," Rose said.

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Dr. Michael Foley was not busy during the Aug. 13 game against the Seattle Mariners, but sick fans sometimes keep him working during all nine innings.

The perfect job for a sports-loving physician

FENWAY, FROM PAGE 1

student at the University of Massachusetts at Worcester, where athletic teams in the area asked for his assistance. While a medical student, he met Dr. Arthur Pappas, the future chief physician for the Red Sox.

Pappas is a orthopedist, the field that meets the most common needs of the players. He asked Foley to help him, because he knew he had the background in sports and sports medicine. He needed someone to deal with other types of medical problems, mostly with the fans.

Beside the medical problems fans bring with them, foul balls have provided Foley with patients.

"There is no park where the fans are closer to the action," he said. "The balls come in fast and furious."

Once, he lent his stadium seat

to the mother of his babysitter, who was visiting from Limerick, Ireland and wanted to see a Red Sox game. She was hit in the eye with a ball and spent the remainder of the game at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

He remembered a even more serious injury from 10 years ago. Dave Stapleton hit a ball into the bleachers behind the Sox's dugout. It struck a 4-year-old boy in the head, leaving a depression in his skull and heavy bleeding.

Former Red Sox player Jim Rice saw the boy's bleeding. Foley recalled, and knew it would take too long for him to be carried through the crowd. Thinking quickly, Rice scooped the boy up and rushed him through the tunnel leading from the dugout to inside the stadium.

Rice ran to first aid and passed the boy into Foley's arms. An ambulance rushed the boy to the

Children's Hospital. The boy recovered, and the following year, he threw the first ball at the opening of a game.

Foley had few patients to see during the July 30 game between the Sox and the Seattle Mariners. Nurse Mary Farrar said the weather was not extremely hot, the first aid workers did not have to treat fans suffering from heat prostration.

Foley saw a middle-aged woman who complained of indigestion from a frank. Instead, he found she was suffering from an acute gallbladder attack.

"Michael is very professional," Farrar said. "He has a wonderful way with patients."

Foley also treats players, including those from the visiting teams. Some contract various infections while on the road. Foley once treated the late Billy Martin, famous for his temper and barroom brawls. He came through

Boston as the coach for the New York Yankees.

Without revealing what had happened, Martin came to Foley with a cracked rib, a partially collapsed lung, and pneumonia. Foley wanted to admit him to a hospital, seeing his condition as potentially fatal, but Martin insisted he would not miss coaching his team.

For the next four days, Foley said he treated Martin as an outpatient during the day, giving him antibiotics, and Martin returned to the park every evening to coach the Yankees.

When the team was ready to travel to the next city in its tour, Foley telephoned ahead to advise the doctor of Martin's condition.

With free seats to take his sons to ball games, his love of baseball, Fenway, the players, and the fans, Foley said he cannot see giving up his job anytime soon.

Neighbors upset with plan for group home

HOME, FROM PAGE 1

posed site provides.

Fein's husband, Joseph Joyce, told The Advocate, "Our main objection is to the physical size. We certainly don't object to what the school is doing."

However, Fein also said neighbors will likely have to deal with noise, and possibly property damage and crime. Others argued troubled teenagers fail to be rehabilitated, and group homes bring criminal problems into neighborhoods.

Hirshberg said the girls live under constant supervision and strict rules. The school moves girls into the group homes only after they have gone through the school's program on the main campus, he said.

Elaine Harrington, therapy, said when a girl fails to live within the rules, such as keeping a job and returning home at a certain time, they are sent back to the campus.

A woman who lives near the proposed site said her son was molested by a girl being treated in a similar program. She chose not to identify herself in order to protect her son's privacy.

The woman said she had been given the same assurances about the program the girl belonged to. Harrington said the girls have had the same experiences as the woman's son, referring to Hirshberg's earlier comment about the group home's girls having been victims of abuse.

Selectman Charles Lyons defended the school at the meeting and accused opposition to the group home as being an example of "NIMBY," meaning, "Not in my back yard."

H. Judson Terzian, who represented his sister, a neighbor of the proposed site, loudly protested Lyons' characterization, saying the neighbors' stance is not a NIMBY issue.

Lyons attacked an anonymous leaflet opposing the group home as inflammatory. He provided The Advocate with a copy.

The leaflet says the group home will make the neighborhood unsafe, especially for children and senior citizens, and will "introduce a criminal element," leading to vandalism, theft, and constant police protection.

Lyons said the girls are protected by the same federal laws that protect blacks and homosexuals who want to move into the town. References to the troubled girls in the leaflet could be substituted with any minority, he said.

Lyons called writing the anonymous letter, "cowardly," and said if the leaflet had been signed, the author could be subject to federal charges.

Mary Prokos of Surry Road said she owns a two-family house behind the proposed site and pays her mortgage by renting part of it out. She said a group home for troubled teenagers will drive away future tenants.

Thomas Eynon, a Tanager Street resident close to the campus, said the school has not hurt his property values or prevented him from renting his home when he was abroad. He said he came to known some of the girls after attending an open house the school held and has since volunteered time for the program.

Temps flared during the meeting, with some opponents raising their voices, and others walking out before the meeting finished.

Fein argued the school did not give proper consideration in choosing an environment for the girls. Hirshberg shot back, "I do not need you to tell me what is good for my kids."

Hirshberg said afterwards the meeting was more rancorous than previous neighborhood meetings.

When the school wanted to add a new building to the main campus four years ago, he said, officials met with neighbors opposed to the design. The two parties worked out a compromise without the tone expressed Tuesday night, he said.

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Business owners hope for quick work on bridge

BRIDGE, FROM PAGE 1

worth of work on the poles, and then the other work [the phone company] can do after construction starts."

Shea said the project is part of an existing state contract due to expire in November, which includes repairs on the bridges on Lowell Street and Maple Street in Lexington.

"They have to be done with all three jobs by this November," he said.

Roads Corporation is expected to start work on the Park Avenue bridge in the third or fourth week of August, Shea said.

Merchants located near the bridge say the construction will negatively impact their business and they hope to see the project completed as soon as possible.

Craig Torres of Arlington Health Foods on 14 Park Avenue said he is still recovering from the Lowell Street construction and is hoping a set of stairs can be built to help facilitate his many customers who come on foot.

"When the other bridge was closed, a couple of my customers didn't come. Thirty percent of my business is walk-by business. It's definitely going to hurt," he said.

Torres had asked the Board of Selectmen if the project could include temporary stairs from the side of his building down to the Minuteman Bikeway.

He was told that the town and the state could not fund the construction of stairs, but if he could get the construction funded somehow, the stairs would be allowed.

Shea said the town is checking into the feasibility of stairs at the

site, but said no funding is available from the town or the state.

"The problems are more in regards to paying for it," Shea said. "The state is not looking to add any extra funds and we don't have money in our budget to put something in."

Carol Ryerson, president of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, said merchants need to see a quick start and finish to the bridge construction.

"Summer is an ideal time [for merchants] for construction," she said. "But it looks like the construction will start in August or September, and that's not a great time. That's when we are trying to pick up our sales."

Donna Wroblewski, the manager at Gold's Gym at 30 Park Avenue, said the project is expected to start in August or September. She hopes the construction will be completed as soon as possible.

"We saw it as our responsibility that communication will flow between parties," Laite said. "It was at our request that MassHighway send representatives [to a meeting hosted Thursday by the Chamber of Commerce]. If business people have a problem now, they can speak to MassHighway or the project supervisor."

mend alternate routes for commuters, he said.

"Business people had asked for some alternate route recommendations to circulate to their customers, so they won't get frustrated and go shopping in Woburn," he said.

George Laite, an aide to Senator Robert Havner, D-Arlington, said communication is key for the merchants.

"We saw it as our responsibility that communication will flow between parties," Laite said. "It was at our request that MassHighway send representatives [to a meeting hosted Thursday by the Chamber of Commerce]. If business people have a problem now, they can speak to MassHighway or the project supervisor."



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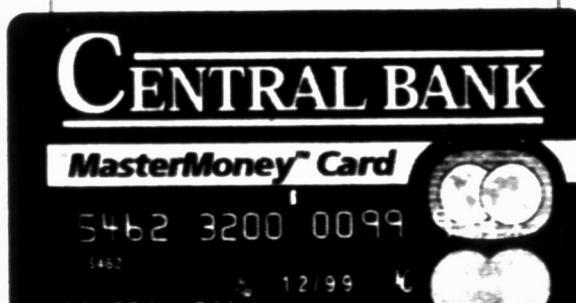
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On Friday, the two elevators at 60 Pleasant Street were shut down, with warning notices from the state Department of Public Safety explaining that the elevators had failed inspections.

Elevator repairs begin after state threatens action against landlord

ELEVATORS, FROM PAGE 1

among others, said the report.

These repairs, cited Feb. 2, 1997, were required to be completed within 20 days of the inspection. In a follow-up inspection in July, it was discovered that the repairs had not been made, and one elevator was shut down July 7. The second elevator was shut down July 30 after a third inspection revealed no repairs had been made, according to the inspection reports.

Condominium owner and resident at Brentwood Manor Richard Robinson said he saw repairmen working on the elevator Tuesday. Robinson said he doubted the work could be finished in one day.

"I think it's more than just a day's work," he said, adding he was glad state inspectors closed the elevators down to get the necessary repairs made.

"The state board of elevator inspectors are doing the right thing," Robinson said.

Other residents contacted declined to comment.

Jones said his department had asked residents if they would file a formal complaint in the event the elevators were not repaired, but all residents declined.

Jones said, "The residents wanted us to be aware of their concerns, but in every case [when we asked] they declined to file a complaint for fear of being evicted or of other retribution from the landlords."

When the elevators were shut down, there were concerns that the ADA would not be able to force Wilfert to repair them, Jones said.

"Under the ADA, it was a little unclear [if enforcement was possible] because of the year the condo was built. The occupancy

permit was offered in 1971 and at that point elevators were not required in the building," he said.

However, Lorraine Greiff, acting director of Massachusetts Office on Disabilities, informed Jones that because there was an existing elevator in the building, it was the responsibility of the owner to maintain the elevator, Jones said.

Wilfert told Jones that repairs had not been made because he could not find an elevator repair company, Jones said.

"Wilfert had said he was unable to find an elevator repair company to make necessary repairs, but there are at least 70 elevator repair companies in the state," he said.

According to records at the Town Assessor's office, the assessed value of the condominiums in Brentwood Manor range from \$52,500 to \$90,200.

BRIEFS

Local family helps Mexican patient

An Arlington family recently hosted a Mexican family whose 14-year-old daughter underwent life-saving heart surgery at Children's Hospital. The father is president of the Rotary Club for the state of Chiapas in southern Mexico.

Michael Fingerle of Norfolk Road was asked by Massachusetts' Rotary Club to greet the family at the airport, because he speaks Spanish, and they did not know English. When he learned the area's hotels were full, he invited the family to his home.

Fingerle said the girl enjoyed the company of his two daughters. "The 14-year-old was wonderful," he said. "Everyone warmed up to her."

The girl's surgery was successful. Fingerle said she was walking around a few days later, although she relied on an oxygen tank. The Mexican family returned home over the weekend.

Schedule for yard waste collection

Yard waste will be collected by BFI throughout the town on Aug. 22. Please follow the regulations as outlined in the recycling calendar. An additional yard waste pickup is scheduled for Sept. 19. Please remember to have your yard waste at the curb by 7 a.m.

Drama camp play this Friday night

The eighth annual Arlington Center for the Arts drama camp, Youth Theater Camp, directed by Eileen Kell, will give a free public performance of the cast and director's dramatized production of "The Pied Piper." For two weeks the group, ages nine to 13, practice their own version of the well-known folk tale and share their work on the final night of camp. The even will be Friday evening, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster Street. A cast reception open to all featuring light refreshments will follow the play. For information, call (617) 648-6220.

Pajama party set for Fox Library

Wear your pjs, bring a cuddly friend and come to the Pajama Story Times at Fox Branch Library on Wednesday evenings Aug. 13 and 20. Children ages 3-5 may sign up to attend this program of bedtime stories which will be held from 7:30-8 p.m. Fox Branch Library is located at 175 Massachusetts Avenue.

Other programs in August at Fox Library include a Sing-A-Long for children of all ages on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 10:30 a.m., and a drop-in "royal" paperbag puppet craft on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. No registration is required for these programs.

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BEACON HILL ROLL CALL

The House and Senate — BHRC records local senators' votes on three roll calls from late sessions during the week of July 21. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

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Anne M. Paulsen
D-Belmont
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Room 22

SENATE



Robert A. Havens III
D-Arlington
(617) 722-1432
Room 513

1.	Y
2.	Y
3.	N

1. Public Housing (S 1903)

The Senate, 38-0, gave near final approval and sent to the House a bill changing the current system under which subsidized housing tenants pay 30 percent of the household's gross income as their portion of the rent. The bill provides that they pay 30 percent of "adjusted gross income" which allows for deductions of earned income taxes, work-related expenses and money spent on tuition and fees. The proposal also allows seniors over 62 in elderly housing to earn up to \$420 per month in minimum wage income without having to pay a portion of that \$420 in higher rent.

2. Optometrists (S 1795) — The Senate, 30-8, gave final approval and sent to the governor a bill allowing optometrists to perform certain functions currently handled by ophthalmologists. The proposal allows optometrists to treat some eye diseases, including conjunctivitis, using therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPAs), also allows them to write prescriptions for some other drugs and permits them to remove from the eye "superficial foreign bodies" like eyelashes and paint chips. Supporters said the bill includes safeguards requiring optometrists to have proper training and pass an exam to qualify for this expanded role. Opponents said the bill goes too far and will reduce the quality of eye care by allowing unqualified op-

tometrists, who are not medical doctors, to treat eye diseases. (A "Yes" vote is for the bill expanding the role of optometrists.)

3. Snowmobile Sale tax (S 1905)

— The Senate, 21-17, rejected a supplemental budget amendment allowing purchasers of snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles to deduct the value of any trade-in from the cost of their purchase and then pay the 5 percent sales tax only on the net purchase price. Current law requires payment of the sales tax on the total cost of the purchased vehicle before the trade-in. Amendment supporters said it is unfair to treat the sale of these vehicles differently from the sale of regular cars and trucks. They noted the state is losing \$13.5 million in taxes because Massachusetts residents are border hopping to buy the vehicles in states without a sales tax or which allow deduction of the trade-in. Amendment opponents said the state should not encourage the purchase of these vehicles which are having a negative impact on the environment. (A "Yes" vote is for the amendment allowing deduction of the cost of the trade-in. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

How long was this week's session?

During the week of July 28 to Aug. 1, the House met for a total of 58 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 20 minutes.

Rothstein and NESWC face many challenges

NESWC, FROM PAGE 1
Selectmen, recently said the revised 2005 contract would actually cost Westford more money. Schreiber bases his assertion on his claim that he calculated costs himself, using EFI's projected variables. His conclusion: towns would pay more, rather than less.

Schreiber's not alone. John Murray, Acton's assistant town manager, joined the ranks of disbelievers the moment the contracts were released, claiming that Acton could stand to make more money if it sticks with the existing deal.

Officials from at least five other towns have, for various reasons, expressed doubts about signing onto either of the deals.

One of the five is North Andover, home of the incinerator. The town is demanding \$400,000 from the other 22 NESWC towns before considering the new deals.

The reason such dissension poses a problem for Rothstein is because a contract clause was inserted by Wheelabrator which stipulates all towns must sign one of the two deals by Sept. 30 for the revisions to take effect. If one town does not sign, the whole deal collapses, leaving the existing contract intact.

"Everybody has to pick one or the other or it doesn't work," Rothstein said, unwilling to offer his opinion of the clause.

Plenty of blame

In April, a legislative caucus, made up of NESWC representatives, filed concerns with Attorney General Scott Harshbarger. In June, the caucus requested that Massachusetts Inspector

General Robert Cerasoli's office conduct an independent review of the original contract.

Rothstein understands attacks on the original deal, saying not enough information was provided to the communities by state officials who negotiated the deal back in the mid-1980s.

"There is a lot of blame to go around," Rothstein said. "The state is clearly culpable. Wheelabrator is culpable."

The NESWC Caucus also has met with the House Ways and Means Committee trying to add \$4.5 million to the deficiency budget. The money would be divided between the 23 communities based on their proportional contribution of trash to the incinerator.

Should its efforts fail, Rothstein claimed the caucus is prepared to push for aid as part of the supplemental budget. If that fails, the caucus will look to use budget surpluses to help defray costs.

"The senators and representatives are working very hard, building a lot of support in getting this money," Rothstein said. "I am cautiously optimistic we will get state assistance in the future."

Credibility confusion

Public perception of Rothstein and his firm hasn't helped. EFI stands to get \$1.2 million if all the towns sign one of the two contracts.

Some environmental groups claim this incentive payment influences Rothstein's effort, discouraging him from considering the possibility of breaking the contracts or shutting the incinerator down.

However, Rothstein said that in 1993, when NESWC communities were looking to hire a negotiating firm, NESWC's Request for Proposals (RFP) included the incentive clause.

EFI has lost money in two of the last four years of its work with NESWC, Rothstein added.

Also, a perceived conflict of interest pops up when people point to work EFI did for Wheelabrator's parent company, Waste Management.

But Rothstein claimed EFI's work with Waste Management was brief and it preceded EFI's relationship with NESWC by two years.

"I would never work for them again. Wheelabrator would never want to hire Environmental Futures," Rothstein said. "We would never take them as a client. It would never happen."

Another criticism: EFI once worked with Massachusetts Electric, a subsidiary of New England Power. New England Power buys electricity from the North Andover waste-to-energy incinerator at a below-market rate.

However, Rothstein said EFI's relationship with Mass. Electric was unanimously cleared by NESWC's board — which decided there was no potential conflict of interest — before it began.

Many efforts, some successes

Although the NESWC communities have lost millions of dollars under the existing agreement, Rothstein said he has explored several alternatives — to varying degrees of success — in an attempt to save money.

He highlighted a few examples: NESWC refinanced its debt

to lower its interest rate; it renegotiated its agreement to sell electricity to New England Power; and made an effort to gain ownership of the North Andover incinerator. NESWC communities paid to build. Wheelabrator refused to part with the generator, though.

"We've done everything in our power without going to Wheelabrator," Rothstein said.

Additionally, bailing out of NESWC is not a viable option; the contracts have been found to be legally airtight, Rothstein said.

"We've had many lawyers look at it. We don't think there's a way to get out," Rothstein said. "This is not a fair contract. That doesn't mean there's a way to get out of it. We would love to find a way out of this contract."

The boulder and the hill

The next seven years look even tougher financially. When the North Andover plant was built, the debt was back-loaded — put off until later in the contract.

The thinking at the time was that the plant would be self-sufficient by now, generating rather than burning money.

That erroneous assumption has mired the towns in a deal they don't want, and no one has found a way out.

So Rothstein is left with eight weeks to sell all 23 towns on the new deal.

If he doesn't, his firm will lose a lot more money, and the two and a half years he has spent negotiating with Wheelabrator, like Sisyphus' boulder, will go rolling back down the hill.

Staff writer Rebecca Kenneally contributed to this story.

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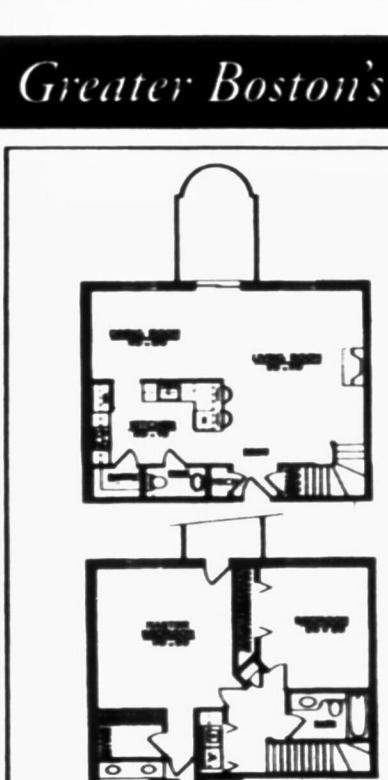
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COMMENT



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EDITORIAL

Fixing the elevators

It's unfortunate that town and state authorities had to become involved before Arlington landlord David Wilfert decided the elevators in Brentwood Manor should be fixed.

The saga, drawn out through much of the year, made it into the regional news last week when state inspectors shut down both elevators in the five-story building.

To those of us who routinely walk up two or three flights of stairs during the day, the inconvenience might not seem great. However, many of the people who live in the building are elderly and handicapped. Some feared they would have trouble getting out of in the event of a fire or personal medical emergency.

But for nearly a week, Wilfert let his tenants sweat it out. We are not sure why this apparent lack of concern for others occurred because Wilfert refused to talk to the media, neither to our reporter nor a reporter for The Boston Globe.

Jack Jones, the town coordinator for compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), said Wilfert told town officials that he could not find an elevator company to work on the lifts.

Jones and other town officials handled the situation well, realizing that while the state's Department of Public Safety could not force Wilfert to do the repairs, a provision in the ADA might be enough to threaten him with possible federal charges if he did not act promptly.

We urge them to continue to pursue landlords who are in danger of letting their properties deteriorate into less than ideal residences.

Submitting news

It's easy to submit news to *The Arlington Advocate*. We want to help publicize your activities, but you've got to help us, too.

Three quick points to remember:

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A news release tells Who is doing What, When, Where, and Why. Often the How may be necessary, too. Always include the time, date, and place of the event, including the address of the meeting place. Double-spaced typewritten copy if preferred. If information must be handwritten, write legibly on one side of the paper only. We cannot publish information that is not clear.

Letters to the editor should be concise and contain the signature and address of the author. Telephone numbers will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters are subject to editing.

Sports information should be directed to our sports editor, Walter Moynihan, at 674-7724.

The deadline for all press releases and opinion pieces is 3 p.m. on Friday for the following week's issue. The only exceptions are reports of weekend events, which are accepted until 3 p.m. Monday. The deadline for letters to the editor is noon Monday. During weeks



with holidays, deadlines are often made earlier.

Publication is at the discretion of the editor. *The Arlington Advocate* cannot guarantee the return of materials submitted for publication, including photographs.

Photographs should be clearly marked on the back with information about the event and the names of all people in the photograph.

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes only. In a recent change of policy, we will now run photographs of the deceased if provided to us. However, the photographs should be relatively recent.

News items should be sent to: Editor, *The Arlington Advocate*, 9 Merriam St., Lexington, Mass. 02173. Items may also be sent to our Internet address: arlington@cnc.com; or faxed to 674-7735.

We've also added another option that should make it easier for you to get us your news. We now have drop-boxes for letters and news items at White Hen Pantry, 94 Summer St., and at D'Agostino's Deli, 1297 Massachusetts Ave.

Arlington's trash helps pollute other towns

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

There has been much talk of late about NESWC incinerator: the astronomical "tipping fees" (the rate we pay per ton of trash), how expensive it will be, whether it is fair to the towns, whether we can get the state to pay for it, etc.

These concerns are all valid. However, left out of the debate is a matter that deserves our attention: the main consequence of the incineration of our trash for Merrimack Valley residents is that they are getting poisoned.

I have done a review of recent data regarding the pollutants that the NESWC incinerator is pouring into the air over the NESWC host community — North Andover — and neighboring towns, and my findings are quite alarming. In short, the incinerator, even when working "perfectly," is poisoning the towns with mercury, lead, and deadly dioxin — the name given to the chlorinated dioxins and furans, the most toxic organic chemicals known — as well as a host of other toxic pollutants. Based on NESWC's own 1995 report, the incinerator was at that time emitting nearly 800 pounds of lead vapor, nearly 2,000 pounds of mercury vapor, and more than 1,300 grams of dioxin each year.

The last figure, though it seems small, is perhaps the most alarming. It is 10 times the limit allowed by EPA regulations. But the NESWC incinerator is not shut down because the new emissions regulations do not have the force of law until several years after

they are issued, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has been delaying issuing new statewide regulations. The consulting firm CDM has noted that 1995 was a "high dioxin year" and that normally the incinerator produces only 200-300 grams per year per incinerator stack, only four to five times the amount allowed by the EPA. That is somehow not very reassuring to me.

Dioxin, as I mentioned above, is the most toxic organic chemical known. It acts at the molecular level, exhibiting its toxic effects at concentrations of 1 part per trillion (that's one drop in 300 Olympic-size swimming pools). It is so toxic because it mimics and/or disrupts the natural hormones — chemical messengers — in our bodies. It is known to cause Attention Deficit Disorder, cancer, birth defects, chronic fatigue syndrome, severe nervous disorders, reproductive system abnormalities, endometriosis, and diabetes. By disrupting hormone receptor sites, dioxin can literally change the functioning and reproduction of our cells. There is no "safe" dose; our bodies have no defenses against it.

Mercury and lead are serious toxins to the human neural system; they cause brain dysfunction and permanent brain damage. The Department of Environmental Protection reports that virtually all the inland waterways of Massachusetts are so

GUEST COLUMN

polluted by incinerator mercury discharges that the fish in these waters is no longer edible.

What does this mean for the NESWC host town — North Andover? Suppose someone came to Town Hall, and asked for a permit to dump nearly 2,000 pounds of mercury, nearly 800 pounds of lead, and 500 grams of the deadliest poisons known into the air over town each year. Would you grant that person such a permit?

Last week I attended a meeting of 150 North Andover residents who gathered to show their opposition to a trash transfer station. The many residents who spoke gave a litany of illness and death that they said had come to their community as a result of incineration. They opposed the transfer station on the grounds that North Andover is already overburdened with poisons from trash from NESWC. When one resident called for the closure of NESWC, the entire audience rose to give him a standing ovation.

Despite the promotion of incineration by the Commonwealth, it is now known that the old simple landfills, over time, accomplished approximately the same trash volume reduction as incineration — about 70 percent. I am not promoting landfill technology — it pollutes the groundwater. I am merely stating that what incinerators have accomplished is merely to move the pollution from the water to the air. For all the money spent on it,

it has not solved the problem, and what it leaves behind is much worse.

When trash incineration is complete, it leaves behind 30 percent of the original weight and volume in ash, a super-toxic witch's brew of dioxin, heavy metals, and other toxic chemicals. A deadly legacy — so far more than 700,000 tons of it — will be left with the residents of Peabody, where, because of lax federal and state environmental regulations, it is being treated as ordinary landfill material.

There are other towns that have made the choice to use comprehensive recycling, which attacks the waste problem directly. Worcester has reached 53 percent recycling, approaching the volume reduction of incineration, by simply charging a small dump fee per bag for non-recycled trash. A similar system is in use in Northampton. In Halton Hills, Ontario, a community of 40,000, the town established a full-scale comprehensive recycling/re-use facility, and the recycling rate is 64 percent.

If you hire a contractor and he proceeds to shoot at your neighbors, you break the contract and fire him. The NESWC incinerator is poisoning our neighbors. Let's break our contract now and use some of the money saved to institute comprehensive recycling!

Campbell is an Acton resident and an environmental researcher and activist.

LETTERS

Warden defends polling practice

To the editor:

I am the Warden in Precinct 4. It was my precinct where the "Yes Committee" set up a table in the same room as my polls during the Annual Town Election, to distribute literature in favor of the debt exclusion.

I wrote "in the same room as my polls," not "in my polls." Since I took responsibility for Precinct 4 in the 1970s, the room containing the polls has been a room of mixed use. Voters from Precinct 2 walk through this room to reach their polls. The Hardy School children walk (mostly) through this room when they enter school in the morning and on their ways to music and art class. School lunches or snacks are distributed in this room during the time of voting. These activities are not usually considered detrimental to the process of voting.

The "Yes Committee" set their table in the area where the lunches or snacks are usually distributed. (Since this election was on a Saturday, the normal school activities were suspended.) The voters from Precinct 2 walked in their usual path, between that table and my

polls. I do not consider that table to have been "in the polls." I am provided with tape to mark the exact boundaries of the polls; but I prefer not to spread that material where people are walking.

I consider the complaints about that table to be politically motivated. I consider the claim that laws were broken to be deliberate untruth. I am sorry that the Bernacchi child has been caught in the hysteria stirred up by one political faction.

Jonathan Cole
Broadway

Why did Selectmen decline invitation?

To the editor:

I regret that the Board of Selectmen refused to accept Mr. Howard's invitation to meet with his group concerning the recent debt exclusion vote, and to work on renovation plans for the schools.

Doug Howard and his group won the debt exclusion vote. Why not join with him and work out a plan which would be more acceptable to the voters of Arlington?

Why disregard the voters who defeated the overly ambitious, "Yes for Arlington" plan?

I received a publication from the Mass. Dept. of Revenue's Division of Local Services. No city or town requested a debt exclusion of such magnitude, as \$50 million was the largest amount requested.

Why not show Doug Howard the courtesy to meet with his group and share ideas?

By doing so, I feel sure that new, more sensible plans will be conceived and more sensible solution will be reached for the schools' renovation.

Nancy Higgins
High Haith Road

Selectmen wrong not to accept invitation

To the editor:

Yes did not say "no" to Doug Howard. That clever but misleading headline (Advocate, July 24) promotes divisiveness at a time when we need facts.

The story says that selectmen voted not to accept Howard's invitation. Selectmen are not the same group as Yes. In fact, some Yes backers appeared to be open to meeting with Howard and his Plan B cohorts.

The inaccuracy of the headline notwithstanding, selectmen were wrong to reject Howard's invitation.

If the board believes it possesses strong facts to support its case to rebuild Arlington schools, then why not welcome the opposition to the table? Who knows, selectmen might win some converts.

To vote "no" on the "no" backers makes selectmen appear to be a failing clique.

Such a clique remains open to conspiracy theories, such as those promoted in the letter from Ms. Cawdon. (Advocate, July 24)

Open up the process. Let those with superior facts reign over fear.

Bob Sprague
Washington Street

Dallin students need four-way stop sign

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the Selectmen meeting on July 21, regarding a four-way stop sign at Florence and Wachusett avenues at the Dallin School. I feel, and am not alone, that this four-way sign is absolutely essential in the safety of the children of that school. I pass there daily to and from work and have personally witnessed several very serious accidents at prime time when children were crossing to and from school.

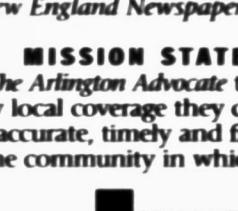
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THE ARLINGTON ADVOCATE

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MISSION STATEMENT
It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.



COMMENT

Neighbors respond to criticism of Germaine Lawrence

To the editor:

I am responding to Mr. John Hagan's July 31 letter, which demands Arlington residents to deny a home to girls who need it most. As an Arlington resident myself, I recognize that the Germaine Lawrence School looks to our community for support, not harassment.

For the past four years I have resided at 25 Claremont Avenue, directly across the street from the Germaine Lawrence School and Residential Treatment Center. I think it necessary to relate to Mr. Hagan some common incidents and interactions, relating to the residents:

About once a week, I run into a few girls as I walk my dog, they say hello.

A group of girls once raked my yard. This winter, after that horrid storm, a teenage resident shoveled my front walk.

The staff has invited my family to visit an annual show of the girls' artwork.

Occasionally, on a Sunday morning, I hear music playing at a church service that some girls attend.

I am amazed that an individual has chosen to fear these girls, rather than welcome and help them. I hope this neighborhood has the strength to recognize that people from different backgrounds enrich communities, rather than threaten them. What Mr. Hagan has named a "glorified prison" is actually a home, a school, a family, and a shelter for girls in need.

When Mr. Hagan says, "...if it can happen in this neighborhood — it can happen in yours," he is correct. It happened across the street from me, and I am delighted it did.

Katherine Venzke
Claremont Avenue

To the editor:

I have been an Arlington resident and an avid reader of the *Arlington Advocate* for the past 12 years. In all that time no article has upset me the way the front page article by Brian Boyd did, entitled "Plan for group home raises some concerns."

Let me say from the outset, I am biased. For the first five years in town I was a neighbor of the Germaine Lawrence School in the Heights, and, for the record, the only reason I moved was that my growing family needed a bigger house and there were none available in the immediate neighborhood at the time. While living in the Heights I had the opportunity to attend the Germaine Lawrence Craft Fair, where I was able to learn about the school which I had been walking by and won-

dering about for quite some time. I was impressed with the dedication of the staff and the daunting nature of the task which they had undertaken and became involved as part of their Board of Friends, a group of volunteers who provided whatever support possible to facilitate the school's work with troubled adolescent girls. For the past eight years I have been a member of the school's Board of Directors. During that time I have come to know the staff and programs of the Germaine Lawrence School very well, so when I read Mr. John Hagan's comment that

"They call it a school, but it is a holding house for criminals and delinquents," I got angry. I got angry at the person who would make such an insensitive and, obviously uninformed, statement.

Mr. Hagan, when was the last time you stopped by the campus (not "compound") or talked to anyone associated with the school to find out more about it? If you took the time, you would find out that Germaine Lawrence enjoys a reputation as the best residential treatment center in Massachusetts, if not the Northeast, with one of the highest success rates for helping troubled adolescent girls through their problems and back into society as productive, functioning individuals.

Germaine Lawrence is not a disease, Mr. Hagan, which "if centralized on the compound ... would be more containable." Rather it is an organization of highly skilled teachers, social workers, therapists, doctors and child care workers, fighting the effects of a terrible disease which is all too prevalent in our society today, namely child abuse. The girls who come to Germaine Lawrence have been the victims of physical and/or emotional violence, personally violated by people they should be turning to for support, not running from in fear. And the people you are throwing stones at and the organization which you so callously refer to as "a holding house for criminals and delinquents" are at the forefront of caring for these young people, rebuilding their self-esteem and helping them regain the confidence necessary to live with and rise above the tragedies which have been foisted upon them by a cruel and often-times twisted society.

If you would spend half as much energy learning about and

educating your neighbors regarding the mission and programs of the Germaine Lawrence School as you do stirring up unnecessary, unfounded fears about the young people the school serves, you would find that, over time, the support these children draw from the community does a world of good for them, and serves to enrich the lives of all those they touch.

Wesley K. Blair, III
Cutter Hill Road

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate that John Hagan has resorted to such inflammatory language in his grossly inaccurate characterization of the group home operated by the Germaine Lawrence School.

Mr. Hagan would do well to learn the facts before irresponsibly flinging words like "criminal" and "prison" into a discussion about one of the most successful and innovative residential treatment programs for adolescent girls in the country.

Germaine Lawrence provides clinical services in a nurturing environment for girls experiencing emotional problems, victims of abuse and young women in other circumstances which put them at risk. The goal is to strengthen their relationships with their families and prepare them for productive, independent lives.

I know about Germaine Lawrence because the school is close to my neighborhood and I wanted to learn more about it. I discovered that Germaine Lawrence defines the standards of excellence for treatment of adolescent girls at risk. I was so impressed by the quality of the program and the dedication and professionalism of the staff that I became involved, first as a supporter, then as a volunteer, and now as a board member.

I also live adjacent to Mr. Hagan's neighborhood and I want to assure him that he has nothing to fear from the relocation of the Germaine Lawrence group home from Arlington Center to the Heights.

The group home in Arlington has been operated successfully by Germaine Lawrence for the past 15 years. The girls who live there have completed intensive treatment programs, have learned how to care for themselves and are supervised by professional

staff who are always present whenever a girl is in the house. Nearly all of the girls who leave the group home go on to finish high school, obtain jobs and are able to support themselves and live independently.

The young women treated at Germaine Lawrence need a program and an environment which helps them feel safe and allows them to reestablish their self-worth. We can help them attain that sense of security and self-esteem by welcoming them into our neighborhood and offering them our support and encouragement.

Daniel C. Everett
Elmore Street

To the Editor:

I read with interest Brian Boyd's article on the Germaine Lawrence School's search for a group home and Mr. Hagan's letter to the editor in your July 31 issue.

My wife and I have been neighbors of the Germaine Lawrence School (and in its former existence as the St. Anne's School) for 23 years. During this time we lived next to one of their group homes for 14 years. We found the administration and staff of the school to be excellent neighbors. The girls are well supervised and the school administration has always dealt with the neighbors in an honest, respectful, forthright manner. They have endeavored to minimize the impact of the school on our residential neighborhood. I am not aware of any substantial problems my neighbors have had with the school and I respect the administration and dedicated staff for the excellent job they are doing to turn around the lives of these kids from abusive homes. The Germaine Lawrence School would be an asset to any neighborhood.

John D. Hayes
Claremont Avenue

To the Editor:

I am writing to decry the attitude displayed in the letter by Mr. John Hagan in the July 31 edition of the *Advocate*.

I am not a resident of the affected area. Although I work with troubled adolescents, I have no

connection with the Germaine Lawrence School, in fact, although I live less than 1/2 mile from it, I was not aware of its existence until I read about it in the paper today. As someone who pursues the police log weekly, I cannot recall a single incident involving the present address of the half-way house.

The young women treated at Germaine Lawrence need a program and an environment which helps them feel safe and allows them to reestablish their self-worth. We can help them attain that sense of security and self-esteem by welcoming them into our neighborhood and offering them our support and encouragement.

Daniel C. Everett
Elmore Street

LETTERS

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 8

For the safety of the school traffic supervision and the children and parents of this district, I urge the selectmen to get this four-way stop completed by the opening of school. Let's not wait for a fatality.

Jacqueline Knapp
Park Avenue

Town's soccer players deserve good fields

No club or activity in town has seen the growth in membership during the last five years that the Arlington Soccer Club has experienced. It has left the players with a major problem ... finding safe, adequate field space for games and practices.

Last year more than 1200 youngsters ages 5 to 19 enjoyed recreational and competitive soccer. Some play all games in Arlington, others host teams coming from the towns in their divisions. Several select teams represented Arlington at tournaments and state competitions.

Soccer is a sport that doesn't demand complicated, expensive equipment, but it does require a pretty large, flat, grass playing surface. The game is equally appealing to boys and girls, young and mature, tall or short and there is a place on a team for every youngster who registers. It is simple enough for the kindergarten aged beginner to enjoy the thrill of scoring a goal in her first scrimmage, but skills and teamwork require years of practices for mastery. All coaches are volunteers and many parents are learning the game along with their children.

We all would love to have "ideal" neighbors in "ideal" neighborhoods. Would we rather have a half-way house next to us or a husband, wife, two children and a dog where the police need to be summoned once or twice a month because of domestic violence? Or perhaps we'd like to live in a neighborhood where the police have to be called because teenagers from "good" families are drunk and disorderly in the park at 2 a.m.

Perhaps if the residents of Surry Road, Daniels St. and Mass. Ave. met with the staff and prospective residents of the half-way house, their attitudes would change. I'd hate to think that anyone in Arlington would be guilty of saying, "I've made up my mind, don't confuse me with the facts." We can fight and be afraid of change or we can welcome it and use the experience to enrich our lives and community.

Barry Rund
Orvis Circle

Elly Dewan, Under-10 player
Fred Dewan, Under-12 player

Janet Dewan

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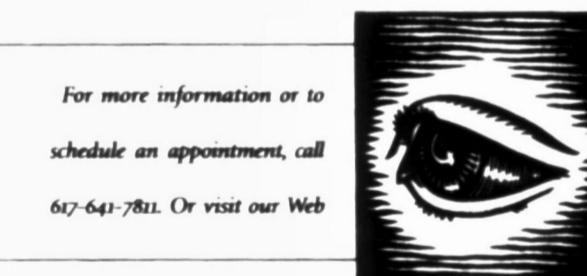
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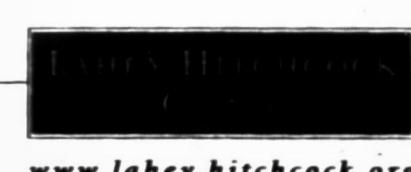
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ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF OUR NEW EYE CENTER AT SYMMES HOSPITAL. NOW PLEASE COVER ONE EYE AND READ THE LETTERS BELOW.

A new Lahey Hitchcock Eye Center is opening at Symmes Hospital & Medical Center in Arlington. This Eye Center is an extension of our existing sites in Burlington and Peabody. And it offers everything from eye exams to periodic check-ups to glasses and corrective lenses to implant surgery. Best of all, when you visit this center, you have access to Lahey Hitchcock Clinic's entire network. We're one of New England's most extensive systems of primary and specialty medical services. We're here for children and adults of all ages. And we're right here in your neighborhood.

At Lahey Hitchcock Clinic, we believe the more you know about your health, the better it is.

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www.lahey.hitchcock.org



The Marinos of Oxford Street will be raising money for the Jimmy Fund Walk in honor of their daughter, Amanda, who has a rare form of childhood cancer and is being treated at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Family raising money for Jimmy Fund Walk

Nick and Andrea Marino of Arlington, will be two of the 7,000 walkers participating in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk slated to be held Sunday, Sept. 28. They will walk to raise money for patient care and the search for new cancer treatments at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world renowned comprehensive cancer center.

Marathon Walk participants have raised more than \$7.5 million for the Jimmy Fund over the eight-year history of the event. All walkers must raise a minimum of \$100 pledges to benefit cancer research, while those who raise \$500 or more automatically become members of the exclusive 27th Mile Club. Last year's Walk raised \$2 million, while the goal for this year's event is to raise \$2.4 million for the fight against cancer.

The Marinos will be joining many other walkers who participate because they know someone who has cancer, know someone who have been treated for cancer, or because they are cancer survivors themselves. The Marinos are walking in honor of their daughter Amanda, who is being treated at Dana Faber.

The Marathon Walk is the only event, other than the Boston Marathon, that the Boston Athletic Association allows to take place along its famed 26.2 mile race route. Walkers may also choose 13.2- or 3-mile options in the fund-raising event.

To join the Marinos in the fight against cancer, send your contribution to: Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Manno, 64 Oxford St., Arlington, MA 02174.

Salary will be \$5 per hour for

eligibility requirements are: applicants must be 60 years of age or older; Arlington homeowner, residing in that property for the past two years; must present required verifications; must meet income standards for low-to-moderate income programs. Not eligible if receiving other property tax exemptions or deferrals.

Jobs will be available in any town department which requests participation in this program; in offices, classrooms, clinics, libraries, lunchrooms and playgrounds. There will only be five openings in this the first year of the program.

Deciding to breast-feed is a personal decision. Having the right educational resources ensures a successful breast-feeding experience. The Lactation Center at Winchester Hospital can give you support and assistance with all of your breast-feeding needs.

The Lactation Center is staffed by a Certified Nurse specializing in lactation who will provide individualized counseling and education to breast-feeding women and their families before and after the baby's birth.

In addition to this service, the Community Health Institute also offers two Breast-feeding classes, "Breast-feeding 101" is for those women who are considering breast-feeding and would like to learn the basic skills.

"Breast-feeding 102" is for those who must be separated from their babies due to illness or having to return to work. Pumping, storing milk and maintaining milk supply are a few of the topics discussed. Coaches are encouraged to attend all visits and classes.

The Lactation Center operates out of two sites: Winchester Hospital and Baldwin Park I in Woburn. For information or to schedule an appointment that is convenient for you, call (617) 756-4788.

HEALTH

Class for women risking preterm birth

Winchester Hospital's Community Health Institute now has a new class for women who are at risk for preterm labor. The ideal time to take this class is 18-20 weeks into your pregnancy or as soon as a diagnosis of an increased risk is made. The next class will be offered on Tuesday, Sept. 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For information or to register, call (617) 756-4700.

Class offered for siblings

Winchester Hospital Community Health Institute offers classes for children to prepare them for their new family addition. The class includes making a birthday card for baby, watching a video about big brothers/sisters, diapering a baby (bring a doll or teddy bear) and a visit to the nursery.

The next class takes place Friday, Aug. 22 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Kingsbury Seminar Room at Winchester Hospital on 41 Highland Ave., Winchester. Pre-registration is required, so call the Community Health Institute at (617) 756-4700.

Support for nursing mothers

Deciding to breast-feed is a personal decision. Having the right educational resources ensures a successful breast-feeding experience. The Lactation Center at Winchester Hospital can give you support and assistance with all of your breast-feeding needs.

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Can't believe you're over 50? Join the club.*

If you're over 50, join our **Presidential Group** and start enjoying the benefits of membership – Like a Personal Checking or NOW Account with no monthly fees. Free Money Orders. Free Travelers Cheques. Plus, **travel discounts** on everything from airline tickets to auto rentals. Benefits also include the chance to **make new friends** on our group trips. Choose from a few weeks in Europe to a few hours out on the town. All members enjoy savings on eyewear, prescriptions, and more. To join, visit any CSB Banking Center. Or call Gwen Merritt at **(617) 864-8700.**



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SENIOR NEWS

COA news
Farmers' Market coupons for seniors — Coupons worth \$5 toward the purchase of food at the weekly Farmers' Market are available to Arlington's elderly. Through Sept. 15, Minuteman Home Care Representatives will distribute coupons at the Arlington Council on Aging every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon, and at Drake Village each Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Applicants must simply show proof of age (60 years or older) and attest that they are income-eligible.

Senior Citizen Community Service reimbursement program — Under this new COA program, eligible Arlington seniors will be able to work in a municipal agency for 100 hours and apply their earnings toward payment of their property taxes. The program is designed also to enhance municipal service by utilizing the skills and abilities of senior citizens, as well as increasing senior citizen involvement in local government.

Eligibility requirements are: applicants must be 60 years of age or older; Arlington homeowner, residing in that property for the past two years; must present required verifications; must meet income standards for low-to-moderate income programs. Not eligible if receiving other property tax exemptions or deferrals.

Jobs will be available in any town department which requests participation in this program; in offices, classrooms, clinics, libraries, lunchrooms and playgrounds. There will only be five openings in this the first year of the program.

Salary will be \$5 per hour for

all jobs with a maximum salary of \$500; maximum number of hours worked under this program will be 100. Seniors will receive one check when job assignment is completed. In other municipalities where this type of program is offered. Most participants enjoy their involvement so much that they stay on as volunteers after their program involvement is finished! There is an open-enrollment period from July 1, 1997 through Aug. 31, 1997. Jobs will be offered on financial need, qualification, availability, location, transportation, and physical limitation.

Application forms can be obtained at the Council on Aging, 27 Maple Street (behind Town Hall). Call 646-1000, ext. 4720 for additional information.

Need help paying for your prescription drugs? You may qualify for up to \$500 under the Senior Pharmacy Program. The open enrollment period has been extended through Aug. 31, 1997. Individuals must meet all of the following requirements: Age 65 and over (July 1, 1997); resident of Massachusetts for past six months; gross annual income no greater than \$11,835/year (\$986/month) for an individual; not enrolled in Medicaid; no prescription drug coverage insurance policy. Applications are available at the Arlington Council On Aging, or call 1-800-953-3305.

Applicants needing assistance with the application form can make an appointment with a trained SHINE counselor.

Free Directory of Senior Services available — Symmes Hospital & Medical Center and the Arlington Council On Aging has compiled an upgraded edition of the Directory of Senior Services, which is available to the public free of charge. Always a popular resource, the directory includes area visiting nurse associations, elder day care, discount legal services, health insurance resources, and other services of interest and need to older adults and their families. The primary areas covered are Arlington and Lexington, Belmont, Cambridge and Woburn. To get your copy of the directory, stop in at the Arlington Council On Aging, 27 Maple Street, Arlington, or call the Symmes Information Line at (617) 641-7820 and a copy will be mailed to you.

Representative Marzilli — Representative Jim Marzilli will be at the COA on the first and third Fridays of each month (Aug. 15) from 9-11 a.m., and welcomes all who would like to drop in to discuss your needs and concerns.

Volunteers needed — Volunteers are needed at the Council on Aging to assist in the preparation of Tax Abatement forms. Training will be provided. If interested in helping, call Ms. Lynne McCluskey at 646-1000, ext. 4737.

The Arlington Council on Aging needs you! We are in need of volunteers for our Meals on Wheels program. Openings are

available on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also need volunteers to cover other volunteers' vacations. Volunteers pick up the meal route for the day at the Medical Center at Symmes at 11 a.m. For more information, call Lynne McCluskey, Council on Aging Coordinator of Volunteers at 646-1000, ext. 4737.

Council on Aging Clinics — Podiatry Clinic at COA (every second Monday of each month) 9 a.m. to noon. Call the COA to make an appointment.

Blood Pressure Clinic at COA: each Thursday, 1-2:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Group — Our support and networking group, for caregivers who have a loved one suffering from a cognitive deficit (at home or in a long-term care setting), is held the first and third Tuesdays of each month. New meeting time is 10-11:30 a.m. at the Council on Aging. If you would like to attend, call for details: 646-1000, ext. 4720.

Social Services — If you would like information about local and area resources for Seniors or if you have personal questions or family issues as you or a family member grows older, call Diane Tainter, Outreach Worker at the Council on Aging for discussion of your needs and concerns.

"Eating Together" Menu — Senior Center luncheon site, 27 Maple St.; call Carolyn Staffier, site manager at 646-1000, ext. 4747 for reservations and transportation. Drake Village site, Hauser Bldg., 37 Drake Village Road; call site manager Marilyn Bruno at 648-7500 for reservations and transportation. Donation of \$1.75 is requested. Menus may vary without notice. Mon., Aug. 11: Crumb baked chicken leg, Lyonnaise pot., mix veg., pears; Tues., Aug. 12: Egg omelet, O'Brien pot., gr. beans, apple raisin compote; Wed., Aug. 13: Ziti/meat sauce, garden salad, veg., blend, chocolate cookie; Thurs., Aug. 14: Split pea soup, reduced sodium ham, coleslaw, vanilla pud.; Fri., Aug. 15: Meatloaf/onion gravy, mashed pot., peas, carrots, fresh fruit.

Senior Center news

The Senior Center is open to all seniors from Arlington and neighboring towns from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The following activities are sponsored:

Family Issues — Dr. Eva Balazs, licensed family therapist, leads individual and group sessions to examine a variety of issues in total confidentiality. On Tuesdays, Arlington Senior Center, first floor, it's free.

Private attorney, Ken Goodman will be at the Senior Center on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. Mr. Goodman provides advice on matters not handled by the Law Project, such as wills, estate, and other issues. No appointment is necessary.

Beginnings' Bridge classes —

For reservations call Rita Luca at 648-9542.

Regular scheduled activities:

Monday — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., exercise class; 1 to 3:45 p.m., progressive bridge.

Tuesday, 9 to 10 a.m., beginning line dancing; 10 to 11:45 a.m., advanced line dancing; 1:30 p.m., second Tuesday each month, sing-a-long.

Wednesday — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., exercise class; 1 to 3 p.m., bingo, 1 to 3:45 p.m., bridge.

Thursday — 9:30 to 11:15 a.m., square dancing; 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., intermediate line dancing.

Friday — 9 to 10 a.m., exercise.

9 to 10:30 a.m., yoga; 1 to 3:45 p.m., bridge.

For reservations call Rita Luca at 648-9542.

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